

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FOL REPEAT USUN 5836 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ROME DEC 9, 1974

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, WFC, AGR, FAO, IT

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: USUN 5835

1. DISCUSSION OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RES (L.1421)
AT DEC 9 PM SECOND COMMITTEE CONTACT GROUP MEETING
DEVOTED PRACTICALLY EXCLUSIVELY TO QUESTIONS OF
COMPOSITION OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. CHAIRMAN HAMID
OPENED DISCUSSION BY NOTING THAT, WITH THE EXCEPTION
OF THE WEO GROUP, ALL GEOGRAPHIC GROUPINGS AND G-77 HAD
ACCEPTED OR AGREED TO THE NUMBER 36. HE REITERATED ALSO THAT
THE GROUPS APPEARED DISPOSED TO ACCEPT FOLLOWING
DISTRIBUTION: 9-AFRICANS, 8-ASIANS, 7-LAS, 8-WEOS
AND 4-EES. HE REMARKED THAT WEO GROUP WAS SPLIT BETWEEN
THOSE FAVORING 36 AND THOSE FAVORING A SMALLER NUMBER.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, MINCOUN KITCHEN EXPLAINED
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USG PREFERENCE FOR A SMALLER COUNCIL OF NO MORE THAN 27

MEMBERS (SEE REFTEL). HIS PRESENTATION WAS SECONDED IN MOST HESITANT FASHION BY THE AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN. OTHER WEOS, MOST ESPECIALLY ICELAND WHICH CHAIRS THE SECOND COMMITTEE LEVEL WEO GROUP THIS MONTH, STRONGLY SUPPORTED 36. THE REMAINING WEOS ACQUIESCED TO THIS BY THEIR SILENCE.

3. THERE WERE HELPFUL STATEMENTS MADE BY PAKISTAN AND ZAMBIA, INDICATING THE NATURE OF THE ROME AGREEMENTS AND THE VAST IMPORTANCE OF ACCOMMODATING THE USG POSITION. THE ONLY OTHER CONCILIATORY REMARK WAS MADE BY CYPRUS, CHAIRMAN OF THE ASIAN GROUP. HE SAID THAT JAPAN WOULD BE INCLUDED AMONG THE 8 ASIAN MEMBERS OF A COUNCIL OF 36, THUS RELIEVING THE ANXIETY OF SOME WEOS WHO FEARED THAT JAPAN MIGHT HAVE TO BE INCLUDED AMONG THE CANDIDATES FOR THE 8 WEO SEATS.

4. AUSTRALIA AND THE US INDICATED THAT THEY REQUIRED ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS BEFORE PROCEEDING. MINCOUN KITCHEN RESISTED THE SUGGESTION THAT THE MATTER BE PUT INTO COMMITTEE WITH THE QUESTION OF NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF COUNCIL'S SEATS TO BE DETERMINED THERE.

5. QUESTION OF COUNCIL COMPOSITION WILL BE TAKEN UP AM DECEMBER 10 IN WEO MEETING, SUBSEQUENTLY IN CONTACT GROUP AND SECOND COMMITTEE. IF QUESTION NOT RESOLVED, COMMITTEE WOULD PROBABLY BE EXTENDED BEYOND PRESENT RECESS OF DECEMBER 10.

SCALI. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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